

gigantic Lusitania, and it is to be feared
tionally got into deep and troubled

mountain high are naturally en-
not only in poetry but also in prose.

cean waves is merely a pleasant figure of speech. Hence there is nothing that is so true in our contemporary's suggestion that mountainous waves are unknown. Vergil, in the *Æneid*, when telling of the storm in which the ship of Orontes came to grief describes the devoted craft as at one moment

striking the sea bottom with her keel between two mountains of water. The line Shakespeare also makes one of his lions pray that the "God of the great" shall "rebuke those surges which wash heaven and hell." In this passage he but follow closely on the lines of the artist. Elsewhere too the Bard of Avon must shake the winds, take the sun from the clouds, take the ocean from the bottom of the world.

... of the winds, who take the round
... by the top, curling their monstrous
... and hanging them, with deafening
... er, in the slippery clouds." Falconer,
... self a sailor-poet of renown, pictured the
... dering ship "engulfed between two
... ating hills, a long, dark melancholy

between." Poor Ouida, who has just
perhaps excelled in her word picture
night with the black seas yawning in
mossy graves" while the "dense clouds
dark steep and tough the waves were

late Charles Reade tells how "the over-
turning sea ran in dark watery mountains

ed with the devilish fire. Here with the
faire of the master in fiction he super-
seded the weird effect of the phosphores-
display, so familiar to seamen under

under conditions, upon the already coming wave. Surely the *Scientific American* cannot believe for one moment that the general reader takes the statements quite literally. Nevertheless he errs hugely in thinking that the biggest wave in a severe does not exceed thirty feet in height. And his criticism does not take into account America's sterling seaman son, was a poet, but in his wildest flights he scarcely have ventured to describe a high sea with a rolling prairie capped snow and chasing each other in sport. Thus he pictured the waves which are for a while running in the same line along the lone Southern Ocean between the meridians of the Cape of Good Hope and Cape Leuwin, Australia; Admiral Byrd, for one of the first, was called by the name of Mary was that now well to be in Washington, D. C., actually measured waves which were sixteen feet from trough to crest. His evidence does not, therefore, stand alone.

My residents of New York will remember

of the passage when he was in command of the Kiddle liner. The strange coincidence of Captain Kiddle's after careful measurement, arrived at the conclusion that having an altitude of seventy feet are unknown. As a general rule ocean waves are compared freely and effectively to hills or with mountains, according to the person who is the painter, but descriptions are rarely if ever accepted at face value. A celebrated Frenchman, Count d'Urville, pinned his faith to 100 feet as maximum height of some of the huge waves he observed in the Pacific, but the mariners, to whom this statement does only verge on the marvellous. The lateral Wharton, one of England's best hydrographers, was of opinion that from forty to ninety feet in height are met with when remote from the land, and that the most probable maximum altitude is fifty or sixty feet. We prefer to let that talk! Our contemporary goes on to say that "tidal" waves are known to reach eight of sixty feet, and there we join at once.

Newspaper reporters are fond of the use of the term tidal in connection with exceptionally high waves and seamen occasionally suit. As a matter of fact such description is worse than useless, for it is misleading and absolutely erroneous. As to the two first mentioned, the latter is always better to speak of. Write

normal seas rather than waves, inasmuch as a very limited number of people will be the audience to refer to tidal seas. Let us at present assume a not very inadequate estimate that the tidal waves in the same ocean. An attempt was made some twelve years ago to trace the origin of the enormous ocean waves, which are not infrequently met with in the stormy North Atlantic to submarine earthquakes. A relationship was known as the Faraday in 50 N. 28 W., which is 6,000 feet above the level of the ocean in the neighborhood. Considerably below the sea surface, on the bottom position of the cable, a double telegraph cable ship Faraday experienced a solitary sea which was visible like a ridge of high land on the boundary line of deep and sky about five minutes before it struck the ship as it was homeward bound. As United States ship San Francisco was passing the Gulf Stream in 1853, outward from New York to her name port, she experienced an abnormal sea—ten billows

...and this was carried away with it. The decks 179 officers and men of the troops who she had on board. Storm waves spanning Bay of Bengal cyclones in instances are known to be, but are the drift over shallow otherwise impassable. The lead showed the wave was forty miles at least, flooded the littoral for miles and caused the loss of 200,000, either directly or indirectly. The danger, are not, the danger, are not the may rightly be referred to as solitary sky, in his classic "Wrinkles in Practical religion," called attention to the group together of three or four, and to the fact that their fellows, and that they seem

exceptional squalls of great violence occur at intervals in nearly every gale. On 23 the steamship Alameda, three days from Frisco to Auckland, was overrun by solitary seas of enormous height which the saloons, cleared out the pilot house out below more than 100 tons of water. John H. Parsell, formerly of the famous Star Line, when chief officer of a 900 ton sailing ship, was sixty feet from the deck the instant a big sea took him off his feet and landed him in the maintop. Our contemporary will find that the biggest ocean is considerably in excess of thirty feet

"Variety" Was All Right.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In a recent discussion on plays and players the writer remarked that in her girlhood days, twenty-three or twenty-four years ago, what is now known as vaudeville was called variety. She went on to say that she had several of her friends of the same age—14 or

[illegible]

Motion.
THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: What will you give for a scoop? I am Charles Rogers, inventor of perpetual motion, and am about to build my first machine. I have used all my money on the airline aggregation inhabiting editorial sanctuaries, but the "critter" is entirely smart to be "taken in." Hence I'll send this message down to New York and see if there any editors that are part fool—the only kind I'll take any stock in the genius that has bested orid.

CHARLES ROGERS.
Cago, March 11.